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PATENT

US040172

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re Application of

Shuji MURATA et al.

Serial No.: 10/516,356

Filed: December 1, 2004

For: COMBINATION CALCULATION AND
COMBINATION MEASURING DEVICE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In accordance with MPEP 609 and 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants bring the attached references to the Examiner's attention and request that they be considered and made of record in this application. Also attached is a completed PTO-1449 form. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three (3) months of the filing date of this application. Thus, ***no fee is believed to be due for this Information Disclosure Statement.*** However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1836. A duplicate copy of this Statement is enclosed for that purpose.

Relevance of Japanese Patent Application Publications 09-068457 and 04-118528 are discussed in the search report of the corresponding international application. U.S. Patent 5,889,235 is a corresponding patent of Japanese Patent Application Publication 09-068457.

Relevance of Japanese Patent Application Publications 08-29242 and 2002-156276 are discussed on page 1, line 22 – page 2, line 15.

Japanese Patent 2-54886 discloses a combination calculation apparatus that includes selection means that designates a combination of weighers from which articles are to be discharged, calculation means that calculates the total weight of the articles to be discharged from the designated weighers, the calculation means also calculating the difference between the total weight and a target weight and selecting additional weigher from which an additional article having a weight close to the difference is to be discharged, and discharge control means that discharges at one point in time the articles from the weighers selected by

the selection means, and discharges at another point in time the additional article from the additional weigher selected by the calculation means.

Japanese patent 1-43889 discloses a combination calculation system that utilizes a plurality of combination calculation apparatuses, each combination calculation apparatus discharging different type of articles, such that combined articles that have different types of articles are obtained at a desired proportion, the total weight of the combined articles being the predetermined desired weight.

Prompt examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

of

1

Complete if Known

Application Number

10/516,356

Filing Date

December 1, 2004

First Named Inventor

Shuji MURATA et al.

Group Art Unit

Examiner Name

Attorney Docket Number

IS-US040172

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		JP-09-068457-A	03/11/1997	KAWANISHI et al.	Entire disclosure	Yes
		JP-04-118528-A	04/20/1992	MASUDA	Entire disclosure	No
		JP-02-54886-B	11/22/1990	MATSUNO	Entire disclosure	No
		JP-01-43889-B	09/25/1989	MATSUMOTO et al.	Entire disclosure	No
		JP-8-29242-A	02/02/1996	KUBOTA	Entire disclosure	Yes
		JP-2002-156276-A	05/31/2002	HASHIZUME et al.	Entire disclosure	Yes

**Examiner
Signature**

Date
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04.

³ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ⁴ See Kinus Codes of JPO's 1-8 Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or JP-EP-507.0-3. ⁵ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁶ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁷ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁸ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.**